

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALFRED E. ALQUIST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Alfred E. Alquist, a distinguished former member of the California State Legislature and committed community leader, on the happy occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Senator Alquist served in the California Legislature for thirty-four years, representing his constituents in both the State Assembly and the State Senate.

Senator Alquist embodies the best of public service. Born August 2, 1908 in Memphis, Tennessee, he graduated from Southwestern University in Memphis and began serving our country as a navigation and meteorology instructor for the U.S. Army's Air-Sea Emergency Rescue Service during World War II.

Senator Alquist took an active role in politics as a participant in local and national Democratic Party affairs when he moved to California in 1947. His career in the California Legislature began in 1962 with his election to the State Assembly, where he served two terms. In 1966, he won a seat in the State Senate and was re-elected every time thereafter for the next two decades, a testament to his outstanding ability to represent the diverse needs and interests of his constituents.

Senator Alquist quickly earned a reputation for championing countless efforts to guarantee public safety and welfare for the people of California. The State Legislature passed more than forty earthquake safety bills penned by Senator Alquist during his terms of office, among them the measure which created the Seismic Safety Commission. He worked tirelessly to improve deadly highway conditions in his district and was instrumental in passing legislation to establish the Santa Clara County Transportation District in 1972.

As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, he led the effort to promote conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. While holding the Chairmanship, he co-authored legislation to establish the California State Energy Commission. Not only did the Senator successfully ensure that environmental concerns were considered, but he also fought to improve California's education system, in one instance holding out as the lone vote against a tax rebate because he felt that the funds were sorely needed for schools. He also chaired the Senate Finance Committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and, after the Senate split the Senate Financing Committee into two separate committees, the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Alquist's life is instructive to everyone who knows him. Because of his vision, his compassion, and his superior leadership, remarkable contributions have been made to our community and our country throughout his ninety years of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this noble man and wishing him the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates his ninetieth.

LOUISE MARGUEZ IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Louise Marquez, who on her own has transformed the community of Panorama City. Louise is proof that one person can make a difference—a huge difference. She is not only Marketing Director of the Panorama Mall, the commercial hub of the area, but she is also involved in outside activities involving literacy, gangs, youth sports, law enforcement and health care. It's no wonder that Louise is loved and admired by many.

Louise has turned the Panorama Mall into a valuable resource for the community. For several years she has sponsored a free tax assistance program for senior citizens and low-income families. I know the service is a huge success; at tax time people are constantly calling my District Office and asking for the number to the Panorama Mall. Louise also co-sponsors Government Day, an annual event at the Mall that brings together representatives from municipal, county, state and federal governments to provide much-needed information to the community.

Louise works tirelessly to improve the economy of Panorama City. The Mall is the site of numerous job fairs, as well as the Latin Business Expo, which brings together employers with prospective employees. I also know that the Mall's merchants hire many young people from the immediate area. The recent upsurge in the economic fortunes of Panorama City, and a corresponding drop in crime, can in part be credited to the efforts of Louise Marquez.

With all the work she does for the Mall, it amazes me that Louise is a member of nine Boards and sponsor of too many events and fund-raisers to mention here. She doesn't know the meaning of the word "stop." If there is another cause to champion, or group to support, you can be sure that Louise will get involved, especially when the focus is on youth. After all, Louise is herself the mother of three teen-agers.

In recent years, Louise has been battling cancer. Her grit and determination to keep working—and smiling—despite her condition is remarkable. I am inspired by her strength and her courage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Louise Marquez, whose love of community and life-affirming spirit are shining examples for us all.

CONGRATULATING MR. STARR ON AVOIDING A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, after unprecedented requests for testimony from Secret Service agents and lawyers and mothers, we recently had another request for testimony from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, this

time of the President himself. There were several reasons why the President would have been justified in viewing this request as another unfair abuse of Mr. Starr's powers. It is highly unusual for the target of a grand jury investigation to be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury. It almost never happens and Department of Justice guidelines strongly discourage such a practice.

Never in the history of presidential investigations, from Teapot Dome to Watergate to Iran-Contra, has a prosecutor gone to such lengths to secure testimony from every conceivable quarter on a matter which appears to take on less and less significance as we learn more and more about it.

In addition, Mr. Starr, who is still under investigation for possible grand jury leaks by Judge Johnson, the D.C. Bar Association and, potentially, the Department of Justice, is seeking President Clinton's testimony even before other investigations have reached their conclusion. Notwithstanding grave doubts about the fairness of Mr. Starr's investigation, the President has agreed to appear for questioning on August 17, 1998. Apparently, Mr. Starr has offered some guarantee that the questioning will not become an unlimited "fishing expedition," as some of Mr. Starr's other activities have been previously described by a federal judge.

It was very important that Mr. Starr offer some assurance that he was engaged in legitimate fact-finding and not a partisan attempt to embarrass this President. After all, this is the same independent counsel who forced First Lady Clinton to personally appear before a D.C. grand jury in the federal courthouse here over two years ago to testify about her work as an attorney while still in private practice in Arkansas. That was also unprecedented and apparently designed to embarrass the Clintons. Since then, of course, nothing appears to have come of the whole Whitewater investigation.

Mr. Starr's recent agreement to limit conditions of the President's testimony was entirely appropriate because to do otherwise would have been a transparent attempt to embarrass the President. If these negotiations had broken down in a legal dispute over the power of this particular independent counsel to call a President before a grand jury under conditions dictated by the independent counsel, then Mr. Starr would have been responsible for creating a wholly unnecessary constitutional crisis.

I commend the Independent Counsel for the flexibility he displayed in reaching an agreement with the President's counsel. We will also be watching closely to ensure that details about the President's deposition are not mysteriously leaked to the news media.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. IRENE NORWOOD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to note the passing of Mrs. Irene Norwood, an ordinary woman from my community who did extraordinary things.

Mrs. Norwood was a wife, grandmother, avid churchgoer, community leader, and member of the South Austin Coalition Community

Council where she rose to prominence as the utilities spokesperson.

Mrs. Norwood was an inspiration to thousands of people who knew her, saw her on television or heard her on the news. Mrs. Norwood became ill and reached the point where she could not walk and often would come to meetings and functions in a wheelchair. Her motto was, she might give out, but would never give up.

Well, she finally gave in and gave out and is now gone to a new community where she remains a premier activist. I can hear her now calling the heaven to order.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALEXANDER AND LILLIAN JOZWIAK

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a couple who have endured the test of time. On July 31, Alexander and Lillian Jozwiak are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both born to Polish immigrant parents, they met at a Halloween dinner dance in Flint in 1947. Soon after, they fell in love and Alexander proposed to Lillian at Christmas. They made a commitment to spend their lives together—a commitment they have taken very seriously. On July 31, 1948, they were married at All Saints Catholic Church in Flint by Father S. Bortnowski. The best man was Jerome "Harry" Jozwiak and the maid of honor Jeanette Szacki.

Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Frankenmuth, Michigan. They moved again to Flint before settling in my hometown of Bay City to raise their family. Alexander and Lillian are devoted to their family and instilled strong values in their three children, Kathleen Janell, Gerard Joseph and Linette Marie. The couple is now retired in Colonial Heights, Virginia, where they enjoy watching their three and one-half year old grandson, Thomas Emmanuel Burnette II, grow with the same values they instilled in their children. Today it is Thomas' perpetual amount of energy that is responsible for preserving their youth.

Alexander and Lillian are not only dedicated to each other and their family, but also dedicated to their country. Alexander enlisted in the Army and served in World War II. They are symbols to the American people that commitment and strong family values can produce many blessings and much happiness.

Mr. Speaker, though the road of life has been long and laborious, the fortitude, love and perseverance of this couple have made a lasting mark on the future generations. I urge you and all our colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes for many more happy years together. May God's continued blessing be upon them.

IN MEMORY OF MEDFORD R. PARK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I inform the Members of the House

on the passing of Medford R. Park, a former Executive Director of the Wentworth Foundation, on July 23, 1998.

Mr. Park, a native of Lexington, Missouri, graduated from Wentworth Military Academy, and later attended the University of Missouri-Columbia. While at the University, Med participated in various extracurricular activities and was a four-year varsity letterman in basketball. After graduating from Mizzou with a bachelor's of Science in Education in 1955, Med joined the St. Louis Hawks of the National Basketball Association. Med played for the Hawks from 1955 through 1959—including the 1958 national championship team. He concluded his NBA Career with the Cincinnati Royals from 1959 to 1960. Med coached the Battle Creek Braves of the Northern Professional League from 1966 to 1968.

Mr. Park was the Executive Director of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon, Georgia, and served as the Executive Director of the John Q. Hammons Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Park is survived by his wife Nancy, three sons, and one sister.

Mr. Speaker, Medford Park was an inspiration in the Lexington community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of this great Missourian.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Chairman, here we go again.

I rise today in opposition to this bill because it fails to fund the AmeriCorps National Service program.

Despite the public's consistently strong support of AmeriCorps, critics in Congress consistently strive to eliminate this important program. So far, they have not succeeded.

Last year, this destructive idea took the form of a funding reduction amendment that passed the House by voice vote. Fortunately for America, the Senate rightly included full funding—in fact, increased funding—for the program in its version of the bill. The program was ultimately retained in the conference report but funded at 75% of the previous year.

Eliminating this program would be a tragedy for our country. The AmeriCorps program, which has had a long history of bipartisan support, has effectively demonstrated our nation's strong commitment to community service and higher education. The program has helped

more than 50 thousand young adults (1,844 in my state alone) earn trust awards to put towards college and has provided opportunities for seniors to remain active within their communities. Despite these achievements, some in this Congress continue to criticize.

Over the past few years, these critics have cited allegations of cost overruns and inefficiencies in the program. They have looked for every opportunity to criticize the program and, at the same time, criticize the President.

Early in the last Congress, the Oversight Subcommittee of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities held a series of hearings on the AmeriCorps program to address the concerns of its critics. As Ranking Member of that subcommittee at the time, I had the opportunity to investigate the allegations and to hear the truth about the progress that has been made to correct any problems.

I, too, was initially concerned about cost overruns, political abuses, and other teething problems with the AmeriCorps program. However, we learned at our first hearing that the Corporation for National Service, of which AmeriCorps is a part, has taken aggressive action to correct any problems. Where political activity was evident, AmeriCorps has cut off funding. In its first year, AmeriCorps also raised almost triple the amount dictated by law from non-Corporation sources.

The Corporation took additional steps to address the concerns of its critics. Former Senator Harris Wofford, now CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Senator Charles Grassley announced a 10-point plan to reform the AmeriCorps program.

That bipartisan effort made clear, enforceable commitments to contain costs. It also resulted in an increase in the AmeriCorps private sector match from 25 to 33 percent of program costs. The 10-point plan also called for further steps to prohibit any kind of lobbying and to improve the grant review and evaluation process. AmeriCorps also agreed to expand its commitment to service and volunteerism. Finally, the 10-point plan called for increased collaboration with national non-profits, special scholarships to reward volunteerism, and efforts to increase occasional volunteerism nationwide.

Indeed, the Corporation heard the voices of its critics and has taken successful steps to cut its costs, leverage more volunteers, and improve its financial management.

Mr. Chairman, despite the widely-known successes of the program, reflected in its public support, some in Congress continue to attack its funding. That leads me to believe that the motives behind the criticism were never constructive, nor intended to produce a model government program. Instead, these critics' real goal was ultimately to defund a program that has been a target of theirs for years, no matter how well it is working today.

The President has announced that he will veto this bill—in large part because it zeroes out funding for this important effort. I urge my colleagues not to terminate an AmeriCorps that has provided many Americans with constructive options to prepare for the future and to better their communities through volunteering. AmeriCorps, through its own valuable projects and its example to the work of others, is making our nation a better place for everyone. Please, oppose this bill.